

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: March 19-25, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

Flights: Nothing to report.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

3/19: Wildlife Services confirmed four calves were killed on private property north of Avon. The calves appeared to have died during at least two separate attacks that occurred on separate days and died as a result of being trampled by other cattle during the attacks. The landowner reported seeing four wolves chasing their cattle on the morning of the 19th. These wolves are believed to be members of the Sixmile pack. FWP has authorized WS to remove four wolves.

3/20: Wildlife Services investigated a report of a wolf kill and an observation of a single wolf chasing two coyotes off of carcass West of Augusta. The kill was not confirmed as a wolf kill.

3/21: Bradley reports two wolves were removed by Wildlife Services in response to the 3/8 Bitterroot depredation. Further information since the time of the investigation suggested there was a third wolf involved in this depredation. FWP has authorized WS to remove 1 more wolf on the ranch. (One of first wolves removed was transferred to the Darby High School for educational purposes.)

3/21: FWP received a report of a dog attacked by wolves west of Victor in the Bitterroot Valley. The attack occurred on the night of March 16th. The owner saw 5-6 wolves, one of which approached close to the front of the house. The dog (a Pyrenees/golden retriever mix) was sitting on the front porch and chased after the wolves but was able to escape back to the house. The dog received 2 puncture wounds to his left haunch and

was treated at the vet but is in good condition. Bradley met with the owners later in the week and gave them some cracker shells and talked about other possible deterrents. The wolves involved were likely members of the Brooks Creek pack.

3/22: Wildlife Services confirmed a second adult cow as being injured by wolves and later euthanized in the Sage Creek area. It was in the same pasture as the first cow injured and euthanized there on 3/18. Again, two sets of wolf tracks were observed. WS has traps set in the area and has set on the carcass to shoot returning wolves. FWP has authorized WS to remove 2 wolves. A shoot on site permit has been issued to the landowners.

3/23: Wildlife Services confirmed a calf was killed by wolves on private land near Polaris. WS continues work on the previously authorized management action. A shoot on site permit has been issued to the landowners.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

3/19: Nelson gave a talk to hunter ed instructors in Billings.

3/21: Nelson gave a brief update on wolf activity to the Shields Valley Watershed group.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES: Nothing to report.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.